2007

Annual Report

St Joseph’s Primary School, Jerilderie

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Introduction
St. Joseph’s Jerilderie is a proud, rural Catholic school located in the Southern Riverina. The school has had many highlights throughout the year and this Annual Report is an account of the many areas addressed, attainments made and the achievements of our students and staff.

1. The School
St. Joseph’s is a co-educational Primary School providing broad based opportunities for children from Kindergarten to Year 6. St. Joseph’s is a Parish school supported by the St. Joseph’s Parish of Jerilderie.

Our school has the largest number of enrolments in some years at 43 students. This is testament to the reputation of the 2007 staff and programs despite the effects of the prolonged and serious drought, the parents of our school are willing to pay for a high quality education.

Our School Motto is
Wisdom through truth and love

“We have a great objective - the light on the hill - which we aim to reach by working for the betterment of mankind not only here but anywhere we may give a helping hand.”

We want St. Joseph’s to be the ‘light on the hill’ in the community by continuing to strive for excellence as a community committed to sharing and developing our Faith, Learning, Care and Service of all members of our school community together.

As a school we believe that we walk together excitedly and enthusiastically on an exciting journey of faith, learning, care and service together as a community. This Journey incorporates reflection to promote effective change and action in our learning and interactions. We acknowledge and incorporate the proud traditions and history of our school and with excitement and boldness embrace the discovery of the new that lie in the future.

We walk together as Friends guided always by God with His blessing and His help. Our aim is to nurture and protect this school community by building supportive structures, practices and relationships aimed at enhancing the well being of all members of our community. Our dedicated staff are energized and enthusiastic about our plans for this year and future years. We are all part of a collaborative team working towards the same goals for all students. That is young people that are prepared for tomorrow’s world with a solid education that is congruent with Gospel values and church teachings.

Religious Education
Our Catholic faith is an integral part of life in our school community. In addition to daily Religious Education lessons in the classroom from the SOS program we work to develop in each child a natural relationship with God and a life lived according to Gospel values.

Our Sacramental programs are a source of celebration as the children progress on their faith journey. The three children in Year 3 received the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion this year. Confirmation is on a 2 year cycle and is due to be made in 2008 for our Year 5/6 students. Our sacramental program is by Mrs Angela Wedesweiler.

All children attend our special school Masses twice per term, with each grade taking a turn to lead the Mass. Liturgies, apart from Masses, are often held to celebrate and commemorate special times or events such as Lent, Easter, Anzac Day, Advent & St. Joseph’s Feast Day.

The students of St. Joseph’s contributed over $200 to the various mission events during 2007. Through its contribution to Project Compassion and Mission Week activities with St. Joseph’s Finley our students developed an insight into the lives of developing nations. It is through such events as this that our students gain an understanding of the disparity between nations and in their way contribute support and awareness of the problems that exist in our world.

The Arts
Creative Arts has a prominent place in our curriculum. We train our teachers each year in new varied methods of teaching this area. This year:

- Every student in the school played an on stage role in our school musical, “Alice through the Looking Glass.” A major undertaking in Term 2.
- We had performances under the Musica Viva Program called Tigramuna and The Hummingbirds.
- We continued to implement the learning program that accompanies these shows
- We completed a huge mosaic with images of scenes from Jerilderie life represented on a Catholic cross design
- We had our Years 4/5/6 students perform poetry at the Flower Show;
- Attend a concert in Finley given by the Sydney Symphony Orchestra Strings section.
- Attend a presentation by visiting performer Geoffrey Chapman called “PPPP-poetry”
- Have regular performances by 2 Year 5 students playing trumpet and clarinet.
Have, as part of our CAP program, a guitar program run for all Years 3-6 students.

We had the entire school sing as a choir at Presentation night and the Jerilderie MPS under the tutelage of Mrs Catherine Browning.

Have every student given regular music lessons from Mrs Catherine Browning as a class.

Attended school play by St Columba’s Berrigan.

Have staff complete ZART Art training courses for Book Week and Christmas Art.

**Sport**

We have a very strong focus of sport in our curriculum. The students participate in a very full sports program each year.

It is the aim of the school that each child be introduced to the necessary skills that will enable the child to participate in school sport. All children are encouraged to participate regardless of ability.

In Kindergarten, Year 1 and 2, the children are taught elementary skills such as running, tumbling, dancing, balancing and ball handling to make them aware of their body movements and to experiment with their own body space.

Between Year 3—6, the children are introduced to team as well as individual sports such as athletics, swimming, cross country, rugby league, AFL, netball, soccer, hockey, tennis, cricket, touch football, softball, basketball and rugby union.

Within the team, the child will experience a feeling of belonging to a group and will learn the art of winning and acceptance of defeat.

Our sporting program also offers

* Twilight swimming and athletic carnivals allowing all parents to attend and participate in these events.
* Opportunities for students at the South West Deanery and Diocesan Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics.
* One Year 5 student was selected to be a part of the Girls’ Diocesan Soccer Team to compete in Canberra. Other opportunities are provided for students to trial for Diocesan Teams.
* Opportunities for netball and AFL competition against other schools in the area for Years 4-6 students.
* We held numerous sporting clinics at the school including cricket and AFL and engaged regularly with Jerilderie Public School for sporting activities.

### School Initiatives

At St Joseph’s we strive for and again the best from all our children and staff. Some of the initiatives for 2006 include:

- Public Speaking – Our Year 5/6 students participate in the Rotary Public Speaking with one being selected to present in Finley. We also have the Annual Penguin Public Speaking Competition for our Year 5/6 students.
- Jerilderie Shire Little Aussie of the Year winner from our school
- Active support of all community events such as
  - Jerilderie Letter Event
  - Summer Fair including competitions
  - CWA Malta Country of Study
  - ANZAC Day
  - ANZAC Day writing competition
  - Various colouring-in competitions
  - Remembrance Day
  - Ecumenical Services with Jerilderie Public School
  - Walk Safely to School Day
  - Police, Rural Fire Brigade and Ambulance visits

- MS Read-A-Thon
- Jump Rope for Heart
- Re-enactment of the Stations of the Cross in the playground.
- Book Week Parade where children are dressed as characters.

Our Kindergarten Orientation Program includes a special information evening whereby all preschool parents are invited and the staff highlight the programs our school offers. We have an orientation program which the preschoolers attend school for a 1/2 day each Wednesday in November. This gives the pre-schoolers a very good idea of how a school operates and they arrive on the first day, the following year, very confident and eager to learn.

School Leaders – all our Year 6 students are School Leaders and gain a badge.

Parent Information Evenings – we begin the year with each class holding an information session with parents to inform them about the routines and expectations for that year level.

Excursion Program:

This year our K/1/2 students have had a number of local excursions. Our ¾ students went to Borambola for a 3 day 2 night excursion and our Year 5/6 students went to Canberra for 4 days and 3 nights.

Our school operates an Active After School Community program two afternoons per week for 8 weeks each term. Trained deliverers provide a range
of activities to enhance the general fitness of the children attending.

School Policies
The school has a policy for Pastoral Care and Behaviour of students which is based upon the belief in the dignity of the person. In our school, it is expressed through quality relationships, rewarding learning experiences, the establishment of an effective network of people, provision for a stable environment and the development of self discipline and growth of a responsible member of the school community. The school also has policies on dealing with complaints and grievances which are contained in our school and parent information handbook and given to each parent upon enrolment. These policies and many more can be accessed via the Principal at the school. Diocesan policies that underpin our own school policies can be found at the following link: www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au

School Council
This year the School Council, in particular the Chairman Mr Jeremy Barlow, have been an incredible support to the new principal at the school, Mr Alan Wedesweiler. Upon the enrolment of a child into our school, each family becomes a member of our School Council. The purpose of the council is to provide advice and support on matters of education, operation, disseminate information, finance, buildings & equipment, organisational items, school policy and procedures, and community issues. By allowing all families to be a member of our council, this provides them with a direct say in the operation of our school. Our school council is very involved in the local community.

This year Jeremy Barlow was the Chairperson with Victor Stonnill as the School Council Secretary, together with, Nancy Curtin Parents Funds Treasurer, Nicky Raleigh catering co-ordinator, Michelle Read as canteen co-ordinator Jenny Barlow was the Uniform Officer.

2. Information on Key School Programs

Curriculum Focus
Our Curriculum Focus for 2007 was tied closely to our School Renewal Framework. Using “Today’s Children, Tomorrow’s Adults” as a key skills criteria, our focus for the whole year was on thinking. We continued the program of implementing Inquiry Based Integrated Units into each class within the school. This is a fantastic method of allowing our students to control and be enthused about learning big ideas. This focus is driven by the Country Area’s Program and is an initiative used by all our member schools. This project is in the second phase. It will continue to grow and develop over the coming years. It will be the main curriculum focus for quite a few years.

Programs to Support Learning
Technology
Our school is very well resourced with technology. We have 16 computers for use by the students. All of our computers are networked to a server which provides fast and filtered internet access. All computers are networked to our photocopier for printing. We regularly use a projector, speakers and DVD program and internet to aid and assist learning.

Library
Every Friday we have a library session for all students run by one of our volunteer mothers, Mrs Gina Stonnill.

Students with Disabilities
The school regularly liases with our Deanery Education Officer and CSO Head of Special Services. These people support the needs of all students in our school and, in particular, students with learning difficulties and disabilities.

Equity Programs
All of our Key Learning Areas have in-built curriculum perspectives whereby teachers will plan to ensure that syllabus outcomes and content reflect the learning needs and priorities of individual students. This includes, Gifted and Talented students, Aboriginal students, ESL (English as a Second Language) students, Aboriginal and Indigenous issues, the gender of our students and any differences and diversities. Indeed our Term 4 whole school focus was on Aboriginal Culture. Over-arching this is our mission based on the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Programs to Support Students
St Joseph’s is a CAP (Country Areas Program) school. CAPs is a federally funded program designed to break down geographical isolation for students and as such we receive funding for specific projects. This year we purchased new computers and software and employed Steven Jones to teach guitars to our Year 3-6 students. Through the support of the Catholic Schools Office, we can offer student support in various ways.

School Counsellor
We have a School Counsellor who works through the Catholic Organisation called Centacare. She attends our school fortnightly to support our families and students.
Students with Disabilities
We had a teacher’s aide support for some of our students for students with specific support needs. These students have an Individual Learning Program written to meet their particular needs.

Drug Education
The Life Education Van visits the school each year. This targets drug education for all our students through real life strategies.

Road Safety
Our Year 6 students participate in the Careful Cobber program run by DECA in Shepparton. We also ran a bike safety day at school for all students. Bikes are checked by a qualified parent and the local police constable came and supervised.

Personal Development
Osemary Clarke from CSO came to workshop with our Years 5 and 6 students a program called Growth and Development: Puberty. The aim is to deepen their understanding of personal development in the company of a family member.

Respect and Responsibility
Supporting the Government’s National Safe Schools Framework, St. Joseph’s has developed a whole school community pastoral responsibility program. We ensure, to the best of our abilities, that St. Patrick’s is a safe and secure workplace for all. Our policies and practices reflect the care and respect with which we hold parents, staff and students. St. Joseph’s has on display the Values of Australian Schools and National Safe Schools Framework posters.

Student Achievement
Statewide Tests and Examinations
The table below indicates the percentage of students who have achieved national literacy and numeracy benchmarks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 3</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Numeracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Numeracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Basic Skills 1998 to 2007

Basic Skills 1998 to 2007
Our school has participated in BST Literacy and Numeracy since 1998 and in BST Writing since 2001. The school monitors the BST Trend Data each year and uses that information to inform its learning and teaching practices for the upcoming year.

Staff Achievement
The professional growth and development of our staff learning and teaching practices are vital for the continued success of our amazing school. During the year, the staff have attended a wide range of professional development courses. All staff have updated their CPR. All have current First Aid certificates and they were in-serviced on their Duty of Care, the new reporting system, Child Protection and Harassment Legislation.

3. School Renewal

Progress of the School Renewal Framework
Work continued in the following areas for 2007. This was compromised by staff changes and this will remain at the fore of our workings for 2008.

VISION AND MISSION POLICIES, CURRICULUM AND PROGRAMS LEADRSHIP: ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANISATION PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

School Improvement Targets
We have continued with the Integrated Studies this year whereby we teach a Unit of Work which consists of one complex question and 3 inquiry questions. Each term our questions come form the 4 big ideas, Choice, Environment, Change and Culture. We work with the five other schools in our CAP cluster. In addition there is a strong focus on:
* Maintenance of classrooms and grounds (ongoing)
* Update resources continually particularly
* Technology.
4. School Overview

School Enrolment

Enrolment Policy
We offer enrolment to students whose families are seeking a Catholic Education for their children or to those families who wish their children to be educated in a Christian environment. Further information on enrolment can be found at www.cso.wagga.catholic.edu.au

Student Enrolment Profile:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boys</th>
<th>Girls</th>
<th>Indig*</th>
<th>LOTE*</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Language background Other Than English

Structure of Classes
In 2007 we had 3 class groupings of:
- Kindergarten and Year One
- Year Two and Year Three
- Year Four, Year Five and Year Six

Staff

Teacher Standards
The NSW government requires that this report detail the number of teachers in each of the following categories:
A) have teaching qualifications from a recognised higher education institution
B) have qualifications from a recognised higher education institution but no formal teacher education qualifications
C) have relevant successful teaching experience and appropriate knowledge but no formal teacher qualifications.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
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</table>

Professional Learning
Teachers have undertaken 5 days of professional learning in the writing of units of work in Integrated Studies. In addition staff have also attended the “You Can Do It” Inservice and inservices on Autism Management of Behaviours.

Teacher Attendance and Retention
The federal Schools Assistance Act 2005 requires that each school report on the average attendance rate of staff members in a given school. The end figure is determined by calculations including certain periods of absence due to sickness, personal carers leave, leave without pay, special leave and accident/workers compensation leave. An attendance rate of 98.3% was achieved in 2007 by staff at St Joseph’s Primary School, Jerilderie.

Parent Involvement and Participation
Parental involvement is the key to the success of St Joseph’s Primary School. Parents are the “back-bone” of our school. The Parents and Friends Fund of St Joseph’s is where our tireless hardworking parents work together to raise a large amount of funds for the benefit of our students. Their contribution of $7,000 to our school budget allows the school to maintain the high standard of faith inspired education. Their contributions to resourcing the school in 2007 were exceptional. The Combined Schools Fete/Auction Committee met on four occasions to plan and execute the fete/auction at our school in March. This year we had a “bumper” fete. They donated $5500 to the school budget. The Canteen, under the supervision of Michelle Read, provides a valuable service to our students, as well as, producing a small profit for the Parent Funds.

All parents are rostered on to “work” in the Canteen and help out with maintenance around the school. The School Council applied for and gained a grant to help with providing the best equipment for our school canteen.

Our parental participation does not stop there. We have a dedicated group of reading parents who come in once a week into the classes for reading groups.

We have fantastic support in our library. Parents accession (catalogue) books, cover all the new resources and re-sort books to their shelves. A parent is our Library Monitor and we deeply appreciate all she does for us.

Without our parents we would not operate as effectively.

Community Use of School Facilities
This year AASC (Active After School Community Program has been run at our school each Term. This program is a Commonwealth Government initiative. From time to time our school is used for a variety of activities. As we are a part of the Parish, we share our facilities.

Community Satisfaction
The following information has been provided to the school/college. It has been a valuable gauge for determining the level of satisfaction our community has with {school name here}.

Parents
My child (son or daughter) is usually happy at {school name here}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>%</td>
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</table>
Students
I am usually happy at {school name here}.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90%</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Staff
I am usually happy at {school name here}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>95%</td>
<td>5%</td>
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</table>

Financial Statement Summary
This data shown below is a summary of Diocese of Wagga School System income and expense and includes income and expense of all system schools.

The total income and expense of the school, that is included in the above, is shown below.

About This Report
This report was written by Alan Wedesweiler Principal in 2007, in conjunction with the relevant school stakeholders. It is a requirement of our registration as a Non-Government School and is aimed at informing parents and our community about our school. If you would like any further information about St Joseph’s Primary School, please contact the Principal using the details on the front page of this report.